

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172130

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT:US POLICY IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ANKARA 5240

PAGE 22 OF S/P PAPER "US POLICY IN THE AEGEAN" FOLLOWS:

-- BOTH SIDES WOULD REAFFIRM THAT THEIR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES TO BE BASED ON THE 1923 SETTLEMENT. THEY WOULD EXPLICITLY RENOUNCE ANY TERRITORIAL CLAIM, NOT TO SAY HEGEMONIC ASPIRATION, TOWARD THE OTHER. THIS WOULD ALSO, AS NOTED, REAFFIRM THE STATUS QUO DESIRED BY GREECE WITH RESPECT TO ITS SMALL MINORITY IN TURKEY AND THE STATUS OF THE PATRIARCHATE.

-- BOTH SIDES WOULD REAFFIRM THEIR RESPECT FOR THE 1947 TREATY WHICH TRANSFERRED THE DODECANESE TO GREECE AND PROVIDED FOR THEIR NOT BEING MILITARIZED. THIS COMMITMENT BY GREECE NEED NOT BE INSTANTLY IMPLEMENTED BUT THE PLEDGE WOULD BE WORTH SOMETHING TO TURKEY.

-- BOTH SIDES WOULD REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS THE FUNDAMENTAL SECURITY FRAMEWORK AND POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF EACH. IN PARTICULAR, THEY WOULD NOTE THEIR COMMITMENT TO ARTICLE I AND ITS CALL TO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 172130

THE SIGNATORIES TO SETTLE THEIR INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES BY

PEACEFUL MEANS.

SUCH AN INITIAL UNDERTAKING BY BOTH SIDES WOULD BE ADDRESSED AT THE BROADER FEARS THAT HINDER SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. THEY MIGHT BE SUPPLEMENTED, AT ONCE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER, BY RELATIVELY EASY STEPS SUCH AS

-- GREEK RENUNCIATION OF A CLAIM TO A 12-MILE LIMIT FOR ALL ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN.

-- THE TURKISH PROMISE NOT TO FLY WITHIN 10 MILES OF THE ISLANDS.

-- A COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE MEANS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF AN ACCIDENTAL MILITARY CLASH.

ALL THIS COULD BE THE PREFACE TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE HARDER ISSUES.

WOULD THIS BE ENOUGH TO SET ASIDE THE ULTIMATE ISSUE IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC ONES IN THE AEGEAN? IT MIGHT BE.

IF NOT, THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE PRACTICAL FURTHER STEP THAT COULD BE TAKEN AND MIGHT BE EFFECTIVE: TO DRAW THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, CURRENTLY THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE SOURCE OF GREEK-TURKISH TENSION, INTO THE BALANCING OF ISSUES IN THE AEGEAN. KISSINGER

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